## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

HEATHER YOST	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	Case No. CIV-14-725-D
VS.	)	
	)	
SHELTER MUTUAL INSURANCE	)	
COMPANY,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

## **NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

Defendant, Shelter Mutual Insurance Company, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1332, 1441(b) and 1446, hereby removes this action from the District Court of Oklahoma County, State of Oklahoma, Case No. CJ-2014-2774, to the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. In support hereof, Shelter Mutual Insurance Company ("Shelter") sets forth the following:

- 1. <u>Compliance with Local Rule</u>. Pursuant to LCvR 81.2, the docket sheet from the Court Clerk of Oklahoma County, together with all pleadings filed in the State court action, are attached hereto. See Docket Sheet, Exhibit 1; Appearance, Exhibit 2; Petition, Exhibit 3; and Summons, Exhibit 4.
- 2. <u>State Court History</u>. On May 13, 2014, Plaintiff filed this action in state court. Defendant was served via the Oklahoma Insurance Department on June 30, 2014. See

- Exhibit 4. No other substantive pleadings have been filed, and no discovery has been issued by either party.
- 3. Nature of the Action. Plaintiff has a Dwelling Insurance Policy with Shelter, being Policy No. 35-73-7427932-1. Plaintiff alleges that a loss occurred to her dwelling on April 11, 2013, and that Shelter partially denied benefits and withheld payment after an unreasonable investigation and without a good faith basis for doing so. Plaintiff asserts that Shelter breached the insurance contract and its duty of good faith and fair dealing. Shelter denies these allegations and asserts that while a portion of the damage was not the result of a covered peril, subject to the coverage deductible, a portion of the damage was not the result of a covered peril.
- 4. <u>Basis for Jurisdiction in this Court</u>. This action is a civil action of which this Court has original jurisdiction based on diversity of citizenship under 28 U.S.C. §1332(a).
- 5. <u>Citizenship of Parties</u>. Plaintiff asserts in her Petition that she owns a home in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and resides in said home; thus, she is citizen of the state of Oklahoma. Plaintiff does not make any assertions relative to Shelter's citizenship. A "[p]laintiff, however, cannot avoid removal merely be declining to allege the parties citizenship." *Walker v. American Standard Ins. Co. of Wis.*, 2011 WL 3439404, at \*3 (D. Colo. Aug. 5, 2011). Defendant Shelter is a Missouri corporation, with its principal place of business in the state of Missouri. Therefore, complete diversity exists between the parties pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332(a)(1).

- 6. Amount in Controversy. Plaintiff's state court Petition contains a prayer for relief for "an amount in excess of \$75,000.00, plus interest, costs and for any such other and further relief to which Plaintiff may be entitled." Therefore, the amount in controversy is satisfied.
- 7. <u>Timeliness of Removal</u>. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446, this Notice of Removal is filed timely, i.e., within 30 days of service upon the Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner, Shelter's appointed agent for receipt of service of legal process per 36 O.S. §621.
- 8. <u>Notice Given</u>. Simultaneously with the filing of this Notice of Removal, Defendant has filed a true and correct copy of this Notice with the Clerk of the District Court of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, and will provide notice to Plaintiff's counsel, all in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1446(d).
- 9. <u>Preservation of Defenses</u>. By filing this Notice of Removal, Defendant does not waive, and hereby specifically preserves, all defenses afforded it under the Policy and controlling law.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, Defendant Shelter Mutual Insurance Company hereby removes this case from the District Court of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, to the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma.

## s/Rodney D. Stewart

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## Certificate of Service

	I electronically transmitted the
attached document to the Clerk of Court using the ECF	System for filing. Based on the records currently on
file, the Clerk of Court will transmit a Notice of Electronic Jerry Foshee Foshee & Yaffe Attorneys for Plaintiff	ic Filing to the following ECF registrants: (insert names)
P.O. Box 890420 Oklahoma City, OK 73189	
I hereby certify that on (date)	I served the attached document by
(service method)	on the
following, who are not registered participants of the EC	F System: (insert names and addresses)
	S/ Rodney D. Stewart
	s/ Attorney Name